**Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition Governance for prevention of double burden of malnutrition in Central Asia and Caucasus- Through the eyes of children and adolescents**

**& the 2nd Meeting of Regional Nutrition Capacity Development and Partnership Platform**

**Astana, Kazakhstan, April 24-26th2019**

**Concept Note**

**Background and Justification**

In November 2014, at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), Member States adopted Rome Declaration on Nutrition[[1]](#footnote-1) and its Framework of Action (ICN2 FfA)[[2]](#footnote-2) and committed to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms and articulated a common vision for global action.

In September 2015, Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and placed high priority on addressing malnutrition by committing, under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 to “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”[[3]](#footnote-3)and under SDG 3 to improve health and reduce NCD burden.

In April 2016, the UN General Assembly, through its Resolution 70/259[[4]](#footnote-4), reinforced the ICN2 call for action by endorsing the ICN2 outcomes and proclaiming 2016 to 2025 the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition[[5]](#footnote-5), providing a unique opportunity for governments, academia, civil society and other stakeholders to work together for the coming ten years toward eradication and prevention of all forms of malnutrition in their countries.

In 2017, the Regional Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets in Europe and Central Asiain Budapest[[6]](#footnote-6) recommended the Central Asia and Caucasus to develop a regional mechanism to enhance the capacity of key actors engaged in nutrition. (Key messages from the Regional Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets in Europe and Central Asia held on 4-5 December 2017 in Budapest.

In July 2018, an ECOSOC resolution called the UN Task Force and its members to strengthen its capacity to provide technical and policy advice to Governments in order to implement Multisectoral strategies and enhance multi-stakeholder action[[7]](#footnote-7).

On July 20-21, 2018, multi-sectoral delegations from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and relevant academicians and development partners (UNICEF, WHO, FAO and WFP) participated in a two-day consultative meeting where they discussed the existing gaps in nutrition governance in the region and ultimately the Regional Nutrition Capacity Development and Partnership Platform and its secretariate was launched in July 2018. The National Public Health Center of Republic of Kazakhstan has been assigned to chair the regional secretariate for the period of two years. A Memorandom of Understaning has been signed with the Public Health Center of Replublic of Kazakhstan which clarifies their role as the chair of the regional secretariate.

This platform is a systematic, cross-border partnership oriented mechanisms to develop the capacity of 8 countries in Central Asia and Caucasus to tackle the double burden of malnutrition in the sub-region. The main aims of the platform are as it follows:

1. Building the **leadership and governance capacity in nutrition governance**
2. Strengthening the regional policy advocacy capacity for **improved financing for nutrition** results
3. **Re-Defining and positioning upgraded nutrition services in PHC system** to respond to the double-burden of malnutrition including the defining the **minimum needed workforce**
4. **Enhancing the capacity of the nutrition workforce with the right set of knowledge, skills and competency** sets (short, mid and long-term strategies)
5. **Reinforce the multidisciplinary and system straightening approache**s;utilizing health, food, nutrition, education, social protection, legislative and community systems;
6. **Collaborate region-wide** to **generate applied evidence and support development of evidence-informed policy and guidelines** including Regional Food Based Dietary Guidelines (BFDGs)
7. **Share lessons learned and replicable good practices**

This platform is building on the proceedings and the policy recommendation of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2015-2025) to support the countries in the region to develop needed capacity in nutrition governance to address the double burden of malnutrition.

**Scope of the meeting**

To promote a better understanding of food system and nutrition governance in Central Asia and Caucasus countries and to advocate for higher investment on nutrition and food systems in the region, the Regional Nutrition Capacity Development and Partnership Platform (Central Asia and Caucasus) with support of UNICEF, WHO, FAO and WFP regional offices will organize a 3 -day symposium on sustainable food systems for children’s healthy diets, in Astana, Kazakhstan, April 24-26th 2019. The meeting will be composed of:

* A high-level advocacy session on importance of financing and investment on child nutrition for the Ministries of Finance and Parliamentarians from the 8 countries (1 day)
* Specialized session on Sustainable food systems and nutrition governance for healthy diets in Central Asia and Caucasus- through the eyes of children and adolescents (1 day)
* And the periodic coordination meeting of the partnership platform to review the plan of action and define the priorities for 2019 and to review the progress (1 day).

**Objectives of the meeting/s**

The objectives of the symposium are as it follows;

1. Raising awareness/sensitize key stakeholders (Ministries of Finance, Parliamentarians and managers from food and nutrition, Health, Education and social protection sectors, Ministry of Agriculture), on the importance of investing in food systems and nutrition governance for healthy diets of the whole population and especialy children and adolescents. This will result in creating a network of nutrition sensitive Finance Managers and Parliamentarians in the region. The symposium will be structured around the below pillars:

* Sustainable Food systems for healthy diets
* Conceptual framework of UNICEF on Food Systems for Children and Adolescents
* Economical returns for investment on nutrition, why to invest on child nutrition in the framework of Food systems
* Food Supply Chain
* The External Food environment
* Children’s Diet
* The personal food environment
* The nutrition governance and accountability of states

1. Profiling the food systems and nutrition governance through the eyes of children and adolescent in all 8 countries of Central Asia and Caucasus as a baseline for measuring the results of Regional Nutrition Capacity Development and Partnership Platform (this will include a Consolidated Regional and country by country profiles).
2. To coordinate the Regional Nutrition Capacity Development and Partnership Platform plans, to update the member states on the progress, to review of the draft Work Plan and to agree on the immediate actions for the Q2-4 2019.

**Tentative participants and partners**

* The platform focal points from 8 countries
* The Ministries of Health representatives from 8 countries
* Senior finance managers form Ministries of Finance and Economics
* Parliamentarians members of the health and food security commissions
* The Ministries of Agriculture representatives from 8 countries
* Other sectoral managers specifically from food security and agriculture sectors
* Relevant academicians
* UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
* FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
* UNSCN (United Nation Standing Committee on Nutrition)
* WHO Office in Moscow
* WHO Europe Regional Office
* WFP
* USAID
* World Bank
* CAPNUTRA

1. ICN2 Rome Declaration (2014) : http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ICN2 Framework for Action: http://www.fao.org/3/a-mm215e.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Member States further committed, under targets 2.1 and 2.2, “By 2030, [to] end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round” and “By 2030, [to] end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.” [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/259 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition is implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), using coordination mechanisms such as the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) and multi-stakeholder platforms such as the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <http://www.fao.org/europe/events/detail-events/en/c/1034293/> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <http://undocs.org/E/2018/L.16> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)